

October 2017

Dear Friends,

This has been a wonderful year for growth and frustration. Lori and I've seen the Lord working in some incredible ways. Some of the growth we've experienced is through:

- HUB Churches that are helping others
- Pastors' coaching groups that are meeting regularly
- Beraca, Boston Missionary, City, West End Community and Roots Churches targeting urban environments
- A coalition of CT churches talking about rural revitalization and planting
- Osterville Baptist Church joining Converge Northeast
- Our "Women in Ministry" and "Museums to Movements" Conferences
- Our partnerships with the Antioch School, Greenhouse, NETS, Overseed, Terra Nova, and the Timothy Initiative
- The incredible new Converge Lead Pastors and Staff Pastors joining us
- A pipeline of potential church planters through residencies and internships
- Three churches coming "back from the brink" of almost closing and being revitalized
- The re-purposing of two properties for new ministries
- More people coming to Jesus and being baptized than in any year since we've been here including hundreds through the retreat ministry at Lakeside Camp.

And some of the inevitable frustrations along the way have been:

- Hoping more churches would affiliate with us
- 10% of our churches without Senior Pastors
- Conflict that has divided two of our congregations
- Decline in giving from some churches
- Wishing we could plant more new churches
- Wishing we could financially help more struggling churches
- Believing more lost people should come to know Jesus.

Through all of these events, Lori and I are thankful to share our fifth annual meeting with you. We love working with **John and Pam Mead** at Lakeside Camp and **Ron and Mary Larson** with Missions. We have been blessed abundantly through the friendship of **Ron and Linda Dischinger** at **Elim Park**. We welcome **Brian Bedard**, there as the new CEO and **Dennis Sant** as the new Director of Christian Ministries and look forward to a fruitful partnership with them.

We also are grateful to the Converge Northeast Board for your continued hard work and support throughout the District. We are Better Together.

Your friends in Christ's love,

Brent and Lori Allen

